Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) An image retrieving apparatus of retrieving an image similar to a predetermined query image out of subject motion videos for retrieval, comprising:

    means for calculating a similarity between a frame image of subject motion videos for retrieval and a query image~;

    means for grouping frame images of subject motion videos for retrieval which satisfy a predetermined condition of said similarity~; and

    means for extracting an image similar to a query image out of said frame images which are grouped at every group~;

    <u>wherein said step of grouping frame images of subject motion videos for retrieval which satisfy a predetermined condition of said similarity is the step of grouping frame images of subject motion videos for retrieval which are continuous with time.</u>

23. (Previously Presented) The image retrieving apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the extracted image out of said frame images which are grouped is the most similar image to a query image.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) ~~The image retrieving apparatus according to claim 22,~~ <u>An image retrieving apparatus of retrieving an image similar to a predetermined query image out of subject motion videos for retrieval, comprising:</u>

    <u>means for calculating a similarity between a frame image of subject motion videos for retrieval and a query image;</u>

means for grouping frame images of subject motion videos for retrieval which satisfy a predetermined condition of said similarity; and

means for extracting an image similar to a query image out of said frame images which are grouped at every group;

wherein said query image is a motion video:; and

wherein a similarity between a frame image of said subject motion videos for retrieval and said query image is calculated from a similarity between said subject motion videos for retrieval and said query image at every frame image during a predetermined time length.

26. (Previously Presented) The image retrieving apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said step of grouping frame images of subject motion videos for retrieval which satisfy a predetermined condition of said similarity is the step of grouping frame images of subject motion videos for retrieval which are either continuous with time or partly duplicate.

27. (Previously Presented) The image retrieving apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said similarity is calculated through a use of a frame feature vector which is obtained by applying a frequency conversion and a quantizing processing to an image a size of which is reduced.

28. (Currently Amended) The image retrieving apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said similar similarity is calculated through a use of a frame feature vector which is obtained by applying a frequency conversion and a quantizing processing to an image a size of which is reduced.

29. (Currently Amended) An image retrieving method of retrieving an image similar to a predetermined query image out of subject motion motion videos for retrieval, comprising the steps of:

calculating a similarity between a frame image of subject motion videos for retrieval and a query image:;

grouping frame images of subject motion videos for retrieval which satisfy a predetermined condition of said similarity:; and

extracting an image similar to a query image out of said frame images which are grouped at every group~;~

wherein said step of grouping frame images of subject motion videos for retrieval which satisfy a predetermined condition of said similarity is the step of grouping frame images of subject motion videos for retrieval which are continuous with time.

30. (Previously Presented) The image retrieving method according to claim 29, wherein the extracted image out of said frame images which are grouped is the most similar image to a query image.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) ~~The image retrieving method according to claim 29,~~ An image retrieving method of retrieving an image similar to a predetermined query image out of subject motion videos for retrieval, comprising the steps of:

calculating a similarity between a frame image of subject motion videos for retrieval and a query image;

grouping frame images of subject motion videos for retrieval which satisfy a predetermined condition of said similarity; and

extracting an image similar to a query image out of said frame images which are grouped at every group;

wherein said query image is a motion video~;~ and

wherein a similarity between a frame image of said subject motion videos for retrieval and said query image is calculated from a similarity between said subject motion videos for retrieval and said query image at every frame image during a predetermined time length.

33. (Previously Presented) The image retrieving method according to claim 32, wherein said step of grouping frame images of subject motion videos for retrieval which satisfy a predetermined condition of said similarity is the step of grouping frame images of subject motion videos for retrieval which are either continuous with time or partly duplicate.

34. (Previously Presented) The image retrieving method according to claim 29, wherein said similarity is calculated through a use of a frame feature vector which is obtained by applying a frequency conversion and a quantizing processing to an image a size of which is reduced.

35. (Previously Presented) The image retrieving method according to claim 32, wherein said similarity is calculated through a use of a frame feature vector which is obtained by applying a frequency conversion and a quantizing processing to an image a size of which is reduced.

36. (Previously Presented) A recording medium, on which a program causing a computer to execute the image retrieving method according to claim 29 is stored.

37. (Previously Presented) A recording medium, on which a program causing a computer to execute the image retrieving method according to claim 30 is stored.

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Previously Presented) A recording medium, on which a program causing a computer to execute the image retrieving method according to claim 32 is stored.

40. (Previously Presented) A recording medium, on which a program causing a computer to execute the image retrieving method according to claim 33 is stored.

41. (Previously Presented) A recording medium, on which a program causing a computer to execute the image retrieving method according to claim 34 is stored.

42. (Currently Amended) A recording medium, on which a program causing a computer to execute the image retrieving method according to, to claim 35 is stored.